February 21, 1922.

Dr.L.R.Abrams,
Stanford University,
Palo Alto, Calif.

Dear Dr.Abrams:

I have delayed answering your letter of the first part of February, in which you were so kind as to suggest that we might work together on a Flora of Southern California, in order that I might thoroughly think things over. I believe that the only thing for me to do is to be perfectly frank; I may say, therefore, that for some time I have been thinking of working toward such a manual, but it has been my feeling that I have not yet become well enough acquainted with the plants of Southern California as a whole to undertake such a work immediately, and that there are regions which need special collecting, before anyone ought to work at such a thing. Mr.Johnston and I have gone over the fern literature very carefully in working at a paper on the pteridophytes of this part of the state, and I have been struck with the fact that there are certain regions which we must know better. Now of course I realize that such will always be the case, but I have never had a summer of collecting here; my work has been done at times during the spring snatched away from teaching. This summer I expect to work in our maountains and soon I have a sabbatical, part of which I may spend in the field. But it would be my idea that the whole matter ought to look forward to a period some six or eight years from now, so far as I am concerned. Furthermore, I lean very strongly to the International Rules and to the conservative view as regards genera; I would hope very much in any extensive manual on which I worked, to use the Vienna Code.

I wish, for something ought to be done which will take care of the immediate future, that if you want me to collaborate with you, we might thoroughly revise your local Flora and include the many additions that our own collecting and that of others like Mr.F.W.Peirson have made, and then after this is out, we might work toward a very thorough and critical manual of all Southern California.

Permit me to say that I most highly appreciate your offer speak as I have because I believ frankness is the best way.

I shall hope soon to send you the plants for exchange; I had no special student in mind just at present, but shall have later. I have one who wants to go on for work in Plant Pathology after next year, but I do not suppose that your department does very much along that line; I have never looked up your catalogue with regard to Pathology.

I shall look forward to hearing from you and to an opportunity to meet you, as I shall probably be in your part of the state in the late summer.

Very truly yours,